

## American Indian and Total Population for Fort Belknap Reservation and Related Areas

Geography	American Indian Population					
	Census	Estimates				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Fort Belknap Reservation	2,790	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blaine County	3,180	3,081	3,118	3,125	3,114	3,182
Fort Belknap Agency CDP*	1,207	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hays CDP*	664	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lodge Pole CDP*	207	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Phillips County	350	335	317	312	306	291

Geography	Total Population					
	Census	Estimates				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Fort Belknap Reservation	2,959	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blaine County	7,009	6,824	6,816	6,765	6,673	6,629
Fort Belknap Agency CDP*	1,262	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hays CDP*	702	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lodge Pole CDP*	214	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Phillips County	4,601	4,448	4,353	4,263	4,240	4,179

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

n/a = Not available

\*Census designated places (CDPs) are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries usually are defined in cooperation with local and tribal officials. These boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions.

## Fort Belknap Information

Tribes: Gros Ventre and Assiniboine

Tribe Address:

Fort Belknap Community Council,  
RR1, Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526

Ph: 406-353-2205

[www.fortbelknapnations-nsn.gov](http://www.fortbelknapnations-nsn.gov)

Fort Belknap College:  
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Ph: 406-353-2607

[www.fbcc.edu](http://www.fbcc.edu)



Tribal Council President  
Julia Doney



Governor  
Brian Schweitzer



photo courtesy of Suzie and Rick Graetz

Demographic & Economic Information for

# Fort Belknap Reservation



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State Tribal Economic Development Commission  
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Have questions or comments? Please contact Tyler Turner at (406) 444-2992

# Fort Belknap Reservation

The Fort Belknap Reservation, anchored in Fort Belknap Agency, is the fifth largest reservation in the state, encompassing 651,648 acres of rolling plains, river breaks and the Little Rocky Mountain range. It is home to 3,115 (49%) of the 6,304 Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribal members.

The majority of employment is provided by the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes, which employs 291 full time and 74 part time workers in tribal government. Tribally owned businesses, such as the Little Rockies Meat Packing Plant, employ as many as 6-12 employees. The Fort Belknap College employs 55 staff members, and averages 20-30 graduates per year.

In October 2002, the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) launched the Fort Belknap 477 Employment and Training Program. The program integrates five tribal programs to provide comprehensive education, work-based learning, employment training, and related services that help individuals, families, and the community to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. Six hundred and forty families participated in this vital program in 2005.

Little Rockies Meat Packing, Inc. (LRMI) is one of many partners in the program. The Employment and Training program helped provide 4-6 meat cutting trainees at start-up, two of whom are now permanently placed. Acquisition of the tribally owned meat packing facility occurred in 2002, USDA certification followed suit in 2003, and today LRMI is helping another spin off enterprise: Pride of the Little Rockies, a smoke house that will prepare smoked meat products (jerky, sausage, and meat sticks utilizing the beef and buffalo processed at LRMI).

Pride of the Little Rockies was given a financial boost with a \$450,000 Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans grant award to renovate an existing tribal facility. This, in turn, will create 10-12 new full time jobs from the Employment and Training Program pool of individuals trained in Job Readiness and production/preparation.

FBIC is committed to career development from K-12, to postsecondary, to adult education with programs such as Talent Search (career awareness), Upward Bound (summer program with emphasis on Higher Ed), and the Tribal Business Information Center (entrepreneurial development). With nearly 29% of the population below the age of 18, the tribes realize they must continually build economic opportunities for the future. Currently the tribes are slated to begin construction on a \$3 million water treatment facility this fall, have completed feasibility studies for alternative energy development (ethanol), and continue to attract tourism by offering big game and recreational hunting guides and outfitters.

*Author: Michelle Robinson, DLI Commissioner's Office*

## Fort Belknap Reservation - Agricultural Statistics 2002 Census of Agriculture

	All Farms	Farms Operated by American Indians
<b>Farms</b>		
<b>Farms: (number)</b>	236	53
Land in farms (acres)	829,926	634,270
Average size of farms (acres)	6,859	7,642
<b>Farms by size: (number)</b>		
Less than 1,000 acres	48	37
1,000 acres or more	73	46
<b>Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)</b>		
Less than \$100,000	93	74
\$100,000 or more	28	9
<b>Farms by type of organization: (number)</b>		
Family, Individual, Partnership	108	78
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	13	5

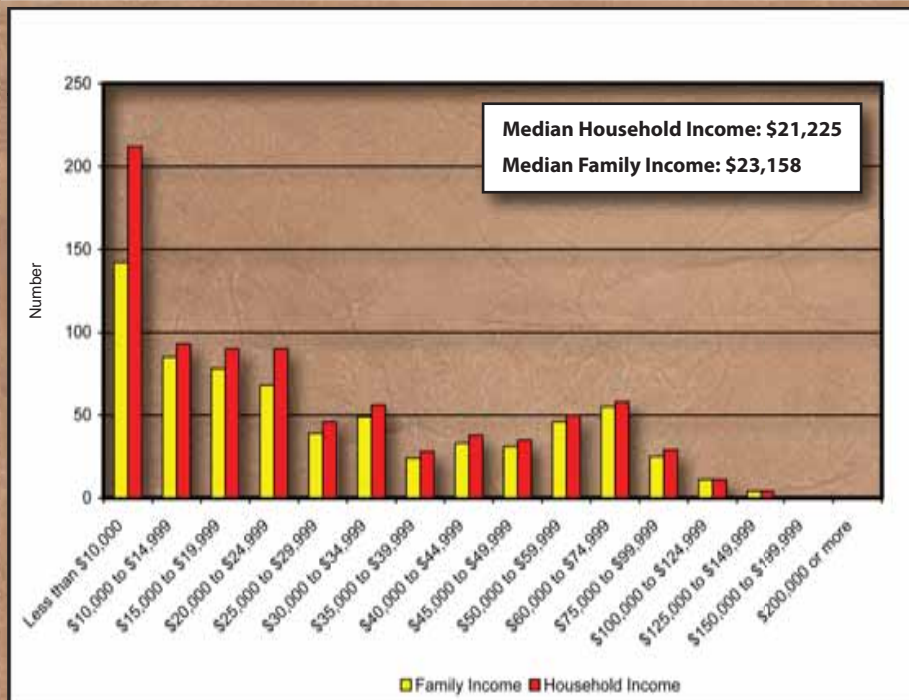
<b>Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested</b>		
<b>Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)</b>		
Cattle and calves	16,026	6,228
Hogs and pigs	(D)	-
Sheep and lambs	571	(D)
Horses and ponies	647	512
Bison	(D)	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	0	0
<b>Crops Harvested (acres)</b>		
Corn for grain	-	-
Corn for silage or greenchop	-	-
Wheat for grain, All	43,985	15,246
Winter wheat for grain	(D)	-
Durum wheat for grain	(D)	-
Spring wheat for grain	42,422	15,246
Barley for grain	1,295	605
Oats for grain	(D)	-
Sunflower seed, All	-	-
Soybeans for beans	-	-
Hay, haylage, grass silage	17,608	6,195

<b>Operator Demographics</b>		
<b>Primary occupation: (number)</b>		
Farming	114	55
Other	83	56
<b>Place of residence: (number)</b>		
On farm operated	155	90
Not on farm operated	42	21
<b>Years on present farm: (number)</b>		
Less than 10 years	51	26
10 years or more	146	85
<b>Age group: (number)</b>		
Under 55 years	112	62
55 years and over	85	49
<b>Average age of all operators: (number)</b>	52.8	53.2

(D): Not Disclosable

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Fort Belknap Reservation - Distribution of Income by Family and Household from Census 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

**Household Income:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

**Family Income:** In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

## Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units

Housing	Total	American Indian
Owner Occupied	53.3%	54.4%
Renter Occupied	46.7%	45.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Fort Belknap Reservation - Labor Force Statistics

The table below provides labor force statistics from three separate sources. The reader will notice some of the numbers are dissimilar, owing to the differing definitions and statistical techniques used by each source. These differences are explained below:

### Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Unemployment rates produced by MT Department of Labor
- Labor Force definition
  - Civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and older
  - The sum of Employment and Unemployment
- Employment definition
  - Did any work as paid employees
  - Worked in their own business, profession, or farm
  - Worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family owned enterprise
- Unemployment definition
  - Have not worked during monthly survey period (usually the week containing the 12th of the month)
  - Available for work
  - Actively seeking a job during last four weeks
- Unemployment Rate definition
  - Equal to the number of Unemployed divided by number in the Labor Force

### U.S. Census Bureau:

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Uses the same definitions for Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment as BLS
- Self-reported every ten years
- Rate reflects employment status as of April 1st, 2000

### Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the tribe, not the reservation.
- Labor Force definition
  - Number of tribal members between 16 and 64 years old
  - Available for work
  - Not disabled or incarcerated
- Employment definition
  - Tribal members working for money
- Unemployment definition
  - Calculated by subtracting Employment from Labor Force

	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemp. Rate
Montana Department of Labor and Industry*	2005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
U.S. Census Bureau	2000	1,086	836	250	23.0%
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	2005	2,794	849	1,945	69.6%

\*Rates for Fort Belknap cannot be calculated due to lack of unemployment insurance data.

## Fort Belknap Reservation - Occupation by Gender Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	Total	American Indians
<b>Total:</b>	836	769
<b>Male:</b>	408	374
Mgmt., professional, and related occupations	121	98
Service occupations	89	87
Sales and office occupations	24	24
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	15	15
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occs.	100	91
Production, transport, and material moving occs.	59	59
<b>Female:</b>	428	395
Management, professional, and related occs.	185	165
Service occupations	92	92
Sales and office occupations	149	136
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2	2
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occs.	0	0
Production, transport, and material moving occs.	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Fort Belknap Reservation - Educational Attainment Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment	Total	American Indian
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	18.0%	17.7%
Associate Degree	13.9%	14.5%
Bachelor's Degree	9.1%	8.1%
Master's Degree	3.1%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Fort Belknap Wage & Salary Employment Annual Averages 2005

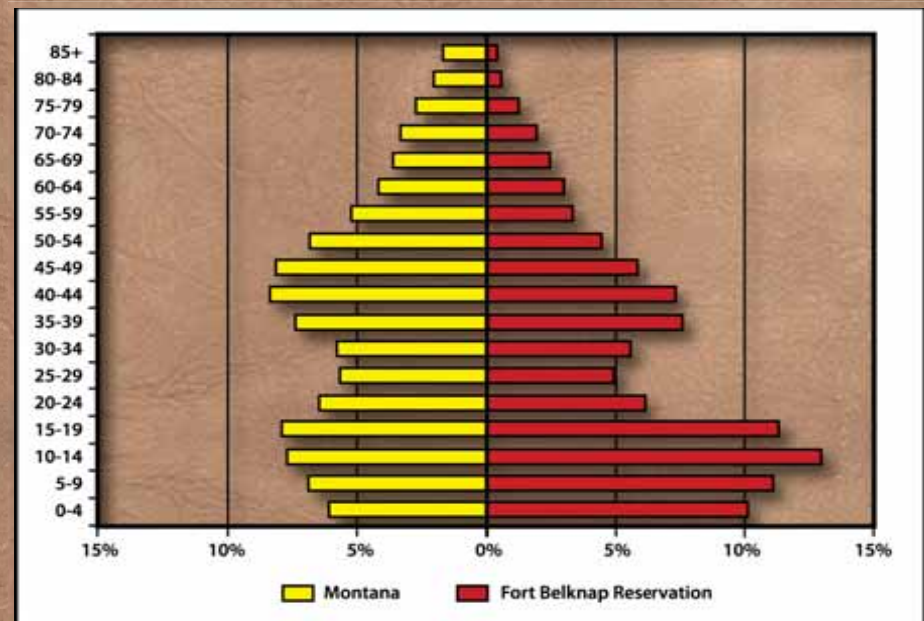
Industry	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages Per Job
<b>Total</b>	333	\$33,880
<b>Total Private</b>	28	\$13,321
Service Providing	28	\$13,321
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	13	\$12,758
Retail Trade	13	\$12,758
<b>Total Government</b>	305	\$35,721
Federal Government	148	\$46,051
Local Government*	157	\$25,984

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*Does not include Fort Belknap Tribal Government

Note: This data is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) series which compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. Some sectors are not shown to preserve confidentiality of individual businesses

## Fort Belknap Reservation - Population Pyramid Percent of Total Reservation Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000